

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for selecting the nature and/or form of an alert used to announce a call made by a user participating in a customised alert service, the method including:
 - a. establishing a customised alert service configuration for a participating user, the customised alert service configuration being stored on one or more network accessible devices;
 - b. the participating user using a first communications terminal to make a call to a second communications terminal, the call being supported by a first communications service;
 - c. identifying a chosen alert descriptor from the customised alert service configuration for the participating user;
 - d. the second communications terminal fetching the chosen alert descriptor from a location remote from the first communications terminal and the second communications terminal; and
 - e. the second communications terminal announcing the call by activating an alert using the chosen alert descriptor.

2. (Original) A method for selecting the nature and/or form of an alert used to announce a call made by a user participating in a customised alert service, the method including:
 - a. establishing a customised alert service configuration for a participating user which includes multiple alert descriptors, the customised alert service configuration being stored on one or more network accessible devices;

- b. the participating user using a first communications terminal to make a call to a second communications terminal, the call being supported by a first communications service; and
 - c. the second communications terminal announcing the call by activating an alert using a chosen alert descriptor;
 - d. wherein the chosen alert descriptor is selected from the participating user's multiple alert descriptors according to the customised alert service configuration for the participating user. ;
3. (Original) A method for selecting the nature and/or form of an alert used to announce a call made by a user participating in a customised alert service, the method including:
- a. establishing a customised alert service configuration for a participating user, the customised alert service configuration being stored on one or more network accessible devices;
 - b. the participating user using a first communications terminal to make a call to a second communications terminal, the call being supported by a first communications service; and
 - c. the second communications terminal announcing the call by activating an alert using a chosen alert descriptor;
- wherein the alert descriptor is chosen according to the customised alert service configuration for the participating user;
- and wherein recently used alert descriptors are cached at the second communications terminal or on a network accessible device ready for rapid re-use.

4. (Original) A method for selecting the nature and/or form of an alert used to announce a call made by a user participating in a customised alert service, the method including:
- a. providing a range of alert descriptors available for selection and use by participating users;
 - b. establishing a customised alert service configuration for a participating user including one or more alert descriptors selected from the available range of alert descriptors, the customised alert service configuration being stored on one or more network accessible devices;
 - c. the participating user using a first communications terminal to make a call to a second communications terminal, the call being supported by a first communications service; and
 - d. the second communications terminal announcing the call by activating an alert using a chosen alert descriptor;
- wherein the chosen alert descriptor is chosen according to the customised alert service configuration for the participating user.
5. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein the selecting and/or providing of at least one alert descriptor includes selecting an alert descriptor from a set of available alert descriptors.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 5 wherein the set of selectable alert descriptors is contained on a network accessible device.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2 wherein alert descriptor information is transmitted from one communications terminal to another during the course of a voice call between two or more terminals.
8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the transmission of alert descriptor information occurs:
 - a. during pauses in voice conversation; or
 - b. after voice conversation has ended; or
 - c. interleaved with voice conversation.
9. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2 wherein the establishing of a customised alert service includes providing information which identifies the participating user or first communications terminal or first communications service.
10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein the chosen alert descriptor is chosen according to processing of the identification information.
11. (Original) A method according to claim 10 wherein the processing is performed by the second communications terminal.
12. (Original) A method according to claim 10 wherein the processing is performed by a server device.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein the establishing of a customised alert service configuration for a participating user includes selecting and/or providing ancillary information for the participating user.
14. (Original) A method according to claim 13 wherein the chosen alert descriptor is chosen according to processing of the ancillary information and the identification information.
15. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein the processing of the ancillary information includes processing variables associated with the ancillary information, the associated variables selected from:
 - a. temporal variables;
 - b. seasonal and cultural variables;
 - c. geographical variables;
 - d. proximity variables; and
 - e. personal variables.
16. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2 wherein the chosen alert descriptor is communicated to the second communications terminal from the first communications terminal.
17. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein the chosen alert descriptor is communicated to the second communications terminal from a network accessible device.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 16 wherein the chosen alert descriptor is communicated using the first communication service.
19. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 16 or claim 17~~ claim 16 wherein the chosen alert descriptor is communicated using a communication path other than the first communication service.
20. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 18 or claim 19~~ claim 18 wherein the chosen alert descriptor has been communicated to the second communications terminal prior to a call set-up process.
21. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 18 or claim 19~~ claim 18 wherein the chosen alert descriptor is communicated to the second communications terminal during a call set up process.
22. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 18 or claim 19~~ claim 18 wherein the chosen alert descriptor is communicated to the second communications terminal asynchronous to a call set up process.
23. (Original) A method according to claim 19 wherein the alternative communications path makes use of the Internet.
24. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 1, 2 or 4~~ claim 1, wherein the customised alert service operates within a network of a plurality of communications terminals and servers, wherein at least some of the communications terminals and

servers participate in a caching scheme which allows alert descriptors to be sourced from a plurality of different servers or communications terminals within the network.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein users who receive calls are able to exercise control over the kinds of customised alerts that they are willing to receive.
26. (Original) A method according to claim 25 wherein alerts are categorised according to their nature and/or content, and users who receive calls may choose to receive only particular categories of alerts.
27. (Original) A method according to claim 25 wherein a user who receives calls may elect that a call be announced by a combination of two different alerts, one selected by the receiving user and one selected by a calling user.
28. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein the call is any one of the group of a telephone call, a voice over internet protocol call, a videophone call, a data call, a whiteboard sharing call, an instant messaging session, a multi-user gaming session.
29. (Original) A computerised system for enabling the nature and/or form of an alert used to announce a call made by a user participating in the system to a communications terminal participating in the system to be determined in accordance with the participating user's preferences, including:

- a. a plurality of communications terminals, at least some of which are capable of receiving and acting on an alert descriptor(s) and calls associated with alert descriptor(s);
- b. a data entry device for creating a customised alert service for a participating user;
- c. configuration software for configuring the participating user's customised alert service, the configuring of the participating user's customised alert service including selecting and/or providing at least one alert descriptor for use with the participating user's customised alert service;
- d. a database for storing the participating user's customised alert service configuration;
- e. processing means for choosing an alert descriptor for use with the call made by the participating user to a receiving communications terminal; and
- f. Means of communicating alert descriptors to the receiving communications terminal;

wherein the chosen alert descriptor is selected in accordance with the configuration of the participating user's customised alert service.

- 30. (Original) A system according to claim 29 wherein the processing means is a communications terminal associated with the participating user.
- 31. (Original) A system according to claim 29 wherein the processing means is the receiving communications terminal.

32. (Original) A system according to claim 29 wherein the processing means is a server device.